

The Board of Selectmen met on Monday, September 26, 2011, 630 p.m., at the Dedham Middle School, 70 Whiting Avenue, Dedham, Massachusetts, to conduct their Neighborhood Meeting for Precincts 3,4 & 6. Present were:

James A. MacDonald  
Carmen Dellolacono  
Michael L. Butler  
Sarah E. MacDonald  
Paul A. Reynolds

Department Heads present were: William G. Keegan, Town Administrator, Nancy A. Baker, Asst. Town Administrator, Paul Munchbach, Town Clerk, Karen O'Connell, Economic Development Director, William Cullinane, Fire Chief, Michael D'Entremont, Police Chief, Ken Cimeno, Building Commissioner, Joe Flanagan, Building Commissioner, Cathy Cardinale, Board of Health Director, Laura Leventhal, COA Director, William Ralph, Asst. Finance Director, Robin Reyes, Collector/Treasurer and Virginia LeClair, Environmental Coordinator

Mr. Dellolacono called the Neighborhood Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and opened the discussion out to the audience.

#### **DISCUSSION/VOTE-- SCHOOL DEPT REQUEST TOWN LOT HIGH STREET**

Ms. MacDonald made a motion to approve permission for the School Department to use the Town Lot located on High Street on Thursday, October 6, 2011; seconded by Mr. Dellolacono and voted unanimously.

Thomas Healy, resident Whiting Avenue, asked how the traffic will be addressed before the opening of the new Avery School—he asked if there will be signage on Whiting Avenue. Mr. Healy went on to say that the traffic on Whiting Avenue has presently increased and requested placement of School Zone and Speed Signs on the street. Mr. Butler informed him that a speed indicator will be placed on High Street prior to the opening of the new Avery School. He went on to say that he spoke with Joe Flanagan, DPW Director, relative to lights at the new Avery School. Now that the area is campus, Mr. Healy asked Mr. Butler and group to explain the scope relative to Mt. Vernon Street and Whiting Avenue. Mr. Butler commented that he will speak with the Town Administrator's Staff and School Committee for input and get back with him with more information. Mr. Keegan, Town Administrator, added that he will be discussing lights at the campus at this Wednesday's Staff Meeting.

Mr. Dellolacono called upon Paul Munchbach, Town Clerk, to explain the recent re-districting process to the audience. Mr. Munchbach informed all that re-districting happens every ten years and is derived through the census. Mr. Munchbach went on to say that the population in Dedham has increased. Additionally, six out of seven precincts are not in compliance and the Town cannot have over 4,000 people in each district.

Mr. Munchbach informed all that 866 households were affected by re-districting and this was relatively low as compared to other areas in the State. Mr. Munchbach went on to say that he will notify all the households that are affected by the change. Mr. Munchbach informed all that there will be a new pole

location—Oakdale School Precinct 4 & 6 will have a new location at the Dedham Middle School, 70 Whiting Avenue.

Thomas Healy, resident Whiting Avenue, asked Mr. Munchbach if he could obtain a copy of the streets that will be affected by re-districting. Mr. Munchbach informed him that the State needs to confirm the map first before he could distribute copies to the public. Once the State confirms the changes, he will post the information on the Town's Website. Mr. Munchbach suggested to Mr. Healy that he visit his office at the Town Hall to look at the map. Relative to Town Meeting Members, Mr. Munchbach informed all that with the change in precincts, Town Meeting Members will have to run again.

Dan Hart, resident Harvard Street, asked if people in Precinct 3 will vote at the Avery School. Mr. Munchbach informed him that he would like to keep the pole at the old Avery School. Additionally, if the Town still has the school open, he will use the old school for the September 2012 Election. Mr. Munchbach commented that he will re-evaluate this situation when the Avery Re-Use Committee gives their recommendation relative to re-use.

At this point of the meeting, William Keegan, Town Administrator, induced all the Department Heads on the panel. Each of the Department Heads introduced themselves to the audience and gave a brief review of their departments.

Brian Keaney, resident Maple Place, asked Joe Flanagan, DPW Director, why High Street was torn up twice by the Water Company and the lack of communication. Mr. Keaney was concerned and thought the Gas Company should have had better communication and torn the road up only once. He went on to say that the road was awful. Mr. Flanagan informed Mr. Keaney that the Gas Company has had many leaks on the street and that they are doing the repair work prior to the commencement of the Dedham Square Project. He informed Mr. Keaney that a patch will be placed High Street to Maple Place by the end of the week. Mr. Flanagan explained to Mr. Keaney that the utilities and road construction work cannot be done at the same time. Mr. Dellolacono added that the Town is at the utilities mercy and works to them, not them to us.

Mr. Dellolacono gave updates on numerous things that are going on around the Town. He suggested to the residents that the e-mail Department Heads with questions and concerns. A resident in the audience thanked the Board and Department Heads for coming out this evening.

Stephanie Radner, resident Mt. Vernon/Monroe Streets, asked Mr. Flanagan if the construction work on Madison, Jefferson and Madison will be done on October 6, 2011. Mr. Flanagan will follow-up with status for Ms. Radner.

A resident asked the Department Heads what is going on around the Town. Mr. Keegan informed all that the Town is going through an evolution and that exciting things are happening around the Town. Mr. Keegan added-- changes do bring on challenges.

Mr. Keegan informed all that he is exploring regionalization of services and re-use of properties and saving assets. He commented to the audience that he needs to learn more from the community on what they might like relative to these matters.

Mr. Keegan informed all that the Town is conducting a study relative to Police/Fire evaluation. The study will be finished in the next six months and will lay out strategic plans for the next ten years.

Mr. Keegan informed all that interviews have begun for the joint (Town/School) Facilities Manager. Mr. Keegan commented that the combined position has been done in other towns in the Commonwealth and that he has been working on this new position for some time which will entail one person to take care of all the facilities in the Town.

Mr. Keegan discussed the upcoming Dedham Square Project. He commented that there will be challenges; however, he will work with the community to address issues/concerns.

Chief Michael D'Entremont, Dedham Police Department, discussed working with the community groups around Town, i.e., Oakdale Alliance, Manor Watch Group and Mother Brook Group. He informed all that he is working with Officer Brian Crump relative to new Traffic Signs.

Relative to other matters, Chief D'Entremont discussed certifications/accreditations pertaining to his staff, three new officers who will be starting service soon and a program for medicine returns at the Police Station.

Chief D'Entremont informed all that there have been 37 house breaks in the Town this year. He went on to say that numerous cases have been solved, property was recovered and perpetrators brought to Court.

A resident in the audience commented that he recently went to the Police Department's "Open House". He was shocked to see the very poor condition of the Police Station. The resident made a suggestion to the Board of Selectmen for a new Police Station going forward—Chief D'Entremont concurred with the resident. Chief D'Entremont informed all that the station is functionally inadequate and has a lot of issues.

Dan Hart, resident Harvard Street, commented that there were a few issues at Condon Park; however, the Police Department has worked well with the neighborhood and things have gotten much better. Mr. Hart discussed the police staffing in the area and thought two officers assigned to cover the neighborhood was a lot. Chief informed all that there are four cruisers out all the time covering—Riverdale, Route 1, Manor, Greenlodge, Dedham Square and East Dedham Square. Additionally, there is a desk officer. Chief explained that the ideal situation would be 5 officers assigned on the street and 2 officers assigned at the station.

A resident 218 Whiting Avenue, asked a question relative to a SBRC matter. The resident asked if there were any plans to place surveillance cameras beside his home (adjacent to new parking lot). He went on to say that the parking lot has no gate, it will be open winter and summer, cars will be playing music, making noise, etc. Mr. Butler, Selectman/member SBRC, commented that he will include this item on the SBRC's agenda. Additionally, he will speak with the School Department.

Resident, Whiting Avenue, informed Mr. Flanagan, DPW Director, that during the winter, he shovels in front of his home and then the Town plow come by and fills the snow back on to the shoveled sidewalk. He asked Mr. Flanagan how this problem could be resolved—he is trying his best and does not know if he can keep up with the shoveling. Mr. Flanagan informed him that Whiting Avenue is opened up curb to curb. Additionally, they use a bombardier tracker. Mr. Flanagan added that they have to push back snow all the way back to the curb in order to open the road up. Relative to this concern, another

resident 217 Whiting Avenue, added that after a storm he goes to the DPW, flags a plow—whatever is needed. He asked that the Town keep the lines of communication open.

Virginia LeClair, Environmental Coordinator, gave an update—Sustainable Dedham. She informed all that the Advisory (volunteer) Committee has monthly meetings. She went on to say that Town received solar grants for the High School and Town Hall.

Ms. LeClair informed all that on September 27, 2011, there will be a Business Recycle Meeting for Dedham Square merchants to discuss DEP grants for technical assistance. Ms. LeClair gave an overview of the proposed recycling process for the businesses in the square.

Ms. LeClair informed all that the East Dedham Neighborhood has received funds to construct a passive park—walkway to the water and Butterfly Garden for students that will tie into the Dedham Water Trail (3 hour loop on the Charles River).

Paul Pourier, Dedham Resident, asked for assistance from the DPW relative to yard waste—he asked if he could drop off yard waste at the River Street yard. He does not have the space to store.

Mr. Flanagan informed him that they do not have the facility for yard waste drop off at the yard. Relative to another matter, Mr. Pourier had issues with the Town's website. Mr. Keegan informed him that he is working on establishing a web facilitator assigned to keep up the entire system on a regular basis. Mr. Munchbach, Town Clerk, added that he will check the postings to make sure everything is up to date.

A resident asked for an update relative to the Avery Re-Use. Mr. Reynolds, Selectman/Member Avery re-Use Committee, commented that this was a challenging project. Mr. Reynolds appreciated the great input—comments were very productive.

Mr. Reynolds informed all that the next meeting of the Avery Re-use Committee will be held on October 4, 2011, at the Avery School Library. He went on to say that the committee has been meeting since January, 2011, and is trying to get the word out.

Mr. Reynolds informed all that they have received some good ideas relative to a leasing partnership. Other ideas include a Senior Center or Intergenerational Center. He went on to say that many of the ideas discussed are not feasible—the Committee's goal is to find out what is desirable and feasible.

Mr. Reynolds noted that the committee has a window open for soliciting as many ideas as possible. Additionally, the committee does not want to see the building vacant and will come to a conclusion within the next sixty days. Mr. Reynolds informed all that the committee listens to suggestions and will then make their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen—Town Meeting will ultimately make the decision.

Resident asked the Board of Selectmen if the Town plans to reduce the Real Estate Taxes going forward.

Relative to the issue of debt, Mr. MacDonald informed the resident that Town Meeting makes these important financial decisions. Mr. MacDonald explained to him the 1.25% meals/hotel tax collected specifically for Major Capital Building Projects. He went on to say that the Town has taken positive steps to establish this money source going forward.

Relative to lowering the taxes, Mr. MacDonald commented that he could not stand in front of the audience and say that the taxes will go down. He went on to say that if the tax rate were lowered, taxes would still go up because the Town needs a certain amount of money to run the budget. Mr. MacDonald explained to the resident the amount of money lost from the State this year and commented that the Town was able to maintain stabilization.

Mr. MacDonald stated that the voters in Dedham were extremely generous. The funds received made it possible to build schools, streets and the Science Labs.

Cecelia Butler, resident, Mt. Vernon Street, asked Mr. MacDonald the amount of money produced relative to the meals/hotel tax. Mr. MacDonald informed her that, to date, the Town has received 1.7 million dollars. Mr. Dellolacono added—approximately, 1 million a year.

Thomas Healy, resident, informed the Board of Selectmen that he was bothered by the construction trucks from Canada with material to frame the new Avery School. He asked that the Town purchase materials from the U.S.A. on future million dollar projects.

Mr. Healy asked if the campus will be dressed up on Whiting Avenue near the High School similar to the area in front of the Middle School. He commented that dressing up the area would also be safer for the students. Mr. Flanagan informed him that this work is not on the schedule. He went on to say that the School Department will be doing some work relative to the entrance and Concession Stand.

On behalf of the Board of Selectman, Mr. MacDonald thanked everyone for attending this evening's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Neighborhood Meeting held on September 26, 2011, which Minutes were approved on November 17, 2011.

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James A. MacDonald, Chairman